## NEW YORK SAFE, SAY BARRY AND BADGER

Mimic War, They Believe, Shows Sound Guns Could Repel Foreign Fleet.

MANY VESSELS ARE SUNK

Forts Also Silenced Theoretically-Another Attack on Metropolis To-day.

NEW LONDON, Aug. 7 .- The Black fleet spent to-day trying to demolish the last of the Long Island Sound coast defences preparatory to an advance on Manhattan in the mimic war now going on. The three forts, Wright, Michie and Terry, were destroyed again, and the better part of the fleet itself was once more consigned to the bottom of the sea.

This appears to brighten up the prospect of New York's safety, for while it in-dicates that the forts at the eastern entrance of the Sound will be turned into so much rubbish by midnight to-morrow, when the attack will end, it means also

that the hostile fleet will be annihilated. So out of the combat both the navy and the artillery will come victorious-both, perhaps, a little fatigued and battlescarred, but wiser for the experience.

Meantime the United States at large may go to bed confident in the belief that an attacking fleet will never enter its domain by New York's back door and that the Atlantic fleet, if ever need be, will be able to silence the guns of any national enemy's land fortifications with compara-

These, at least, are just about the conclusions of Major-Gen. Barry, commander of the Eastern Department, who has spent the week observing the manœuvres, and of Rear Admiral Badger, commander of the Atlantic fleet, who has been directing the attack on the three forts.

#### Bombardment Is Started.

Both sides rested on their laurels from daybreak until noon to-day, at which time all hands began to work again. Three divisions of battleships, all of them in the Black fleet, crept into sight from Block Island Sound at that nour and commenced a long range bombardment which had it been real instead of sham, would undoubtedly have resulted in more work for the Red Cross nurses and the army physicians. and the army physicians.

At the same time two groups of tor-pedo boat destroyers, numbering eight hornets in all, began an exhibition of intricate manœuvres that made every one's eyes open wide with wonder. They raced in from the sea line abreast,

They raced in from the sea line abreast, their stacks puffing out dense clouds of black smoke and the water spreading like a thing afraid from their uptilted bows. Just before they came into range of Fort Wright two of them swerved to the southeast, bent on making life on Fort Michie uncomfortable. The remaining six bore down on Wright, cleaving the sea surface at the rate of thirty-six miles an hour.

miles an hour.

Aboard the decks were cleared for action, the gunners, some of them stripped to the waist, were at their places, and the firemen were down in the furnace rooms heaving coal on to the fires with

might and main.

The destroyers swept by Fort Wright haif a mile from shore, their beam guns issuing puff after puff of white smoke and tire. From the batteries not a human form could be seen on the decks or bridges, but every fire commander in the fort knew that behind the ironciad hide of such destroyers. knew that behind the ironciad hide of each destroyer sixty men were sweat-ing, loading, firing and reloading the harmless looking four inch guns and tending to the details of navigation.

#### Mine Field Cable Is Cut.

The boats passed from one end of the fort to the other in column formathe fort to the other in column forma-tion, then turned and passed back. One of them dropped out, and after dragging about for a few minutes managed to pick up the mine field cable. While it remained stationary, busy with

while it remained stationary, busy with the work of severing the cable, and thus rendering the mines harmless, the five others continued to cut circles, fire broadsides and, figuratively, if not actually, rip up the parapets of the various batteries.

Such a maneuvre in time of war could result in scarcely anything but the com-

result in scarcely anything but the com-plete destruction of every destroyer en-gaged. Despite the fact that green coal was used in an endeavor to screen the boats as much as possible from the fort's guns they were easy marks for the hatteries.

fort's guns they were easy marks for the hatteries.

And yet it is not impossible, as explained by the officers in the fort, that such a sacrifice would be made by a hostile commander for the sake of destroying the mine field that made entrance into the Sound for his battleships utterly out of the question.

This manœuvre led Gen. Barry to comment on the bravery of troops as well as jackles in time of real war. He said without the least hesitancy that American jackles, at least, would not flinch before

jackies, at least, would not flinch before such a task.

Gen. Barry, speaking of the average

merve of American soldiers, said:
"Both in the navy and army the practice of calling for volunteers to do such

tice of calling for volunteers to do such a piece of work has been stopped. Why? Because there inevitably will be so many volunteers that you can't pick from them. We have decided that the best plan is to assign the regular men to work that means great risk."

For two hours during the afternoon that "flotilla of ugly destroyers sped in a circle about the one stationary boat working over the mine field cable. Theoretically, every one of them had been sunk at the end of half an hour, but their commnders did not know it and kept right of, just the same until their work was accomplished. Then they sped jauntily away, letting the batteries have a taste of their quarter guns as they departed.

#### Destroying the Land Batteries.

While this was going on the three divisions of battleships were performing a maritime tango at about a 10,000 yard range from the guns of Forts Wright and Michie. Their object was to put the final touches of destruction on the land batteries by a long bombardment so that there might not be too much interference with the scheduled run of to-morrow.

With this same object in view one of the torpedo boat destroyers braved the Fort Wright batteries in the late afternoon, speeding through the race at thirty-two knots an hour and getting into the Sound unscathed. There it cruised about, out of range of the land guns, feeling its way eastward toward New

feeling its way eastward toward New York to see that the course is clear for to-morrow's advance through Long

Island Sound. Before sunup this morning there was a combined attack by three groups of destroyers and two divisions of battleships

stroyers and two divisions of battleships on the searchlights and mine fields of all three forts. During that attack the destroyers used the smoke acreens with perfect success for the first time sines the manœuvres began.

A drizzling rain ajded their plan, holding the smoke close to the water. For more than an hour the searchlights were unable to penetrate the smoke's density, under cover of which the small boats worked in the mine fields unmolested, while the battleships crept into a 5,000 range and hurled enough shot and shell into the fortst to wipe out of existence of entire army.

#### Saturdays

-Store closes at 12 Noon during August. On other business days Store closes at 6



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"V" neck style.

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Main Fl., Centre.

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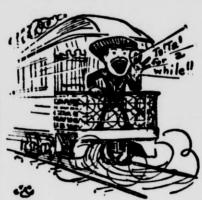
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